

Claims

1. A method of forming a decorative structure, comprising:

(a) positioning a mould against a sheet to form a mould cavity between the sheet and the mould wherein the mould comprises a contoured surface formed of a substantially inelastic material;

(b) introducing a curable resin into the mould cavity;

(c) curing the curable resin to form a resin layer comprising a decorative surface corresponding to the contoured surface of the mould; and

(d) releasing the mould to leave a laminate wherein the laminate comprises the resin layer adhered to the sheet.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the mould is formed of substantially inelastic materials.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the mould has a working surface of a polymerized vinyl ester.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the mould comprises a groove and wherein the groove further comprises an adjustable sealing strip and wherein the sheet is positioned on the adjustable sealing strip wherein the height of the adjustable sealing strip above the mould controls the thickness of the resin layer.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the sealing strip comprises an elastomer.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the contoured surface of the mould is reinforced.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the sheet is a transparent glass sheet.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the sheet is a translucent glass sheet.
9. The method of claim 1, wherein the curable resin is a polyester resin wherein when the polyester resin cures it is substantially transparent.
10. The method of claim 9, wherein the curable resin comprises a hardener so that it cures to form a hard resin.
11. The method of claim 1, wherein the resin comprises units derived from an acrylic monomer and units derived from a vinyl aromatic monomer wherein the refractive index of the resin after curing matches that of the glass.
12. The method of claim 1, wherein the resin comprises methyl methacrylate and styrene.
13. The method of claim 12, wherein the resin further comprises a polyester for imparting flexibility.
14. The method of claim 1, wherein the curable resin exhibits shrinkage on curing of about 2%.
15. The method of claim 1, further comprising applying a release agent selected from the group consisting of oil, wax and chemical release agent to the surface of the mould prior to step (a).
16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the step of priming the surface of the glass with an adhesion promoter before the mould is positioned against the sheet.
17. The method of claim 1, further comprising positioning the mould so that the mould cavity is inclined to the horizontal,

introducing said curable resin in a position proximate to the lowest point of the mould cavity, and

venting air displaced by said curable resin from said mould cavity at a position proximate the uppermost point of said mould cavity.

18. A decorative structure made by the method of claim 1.